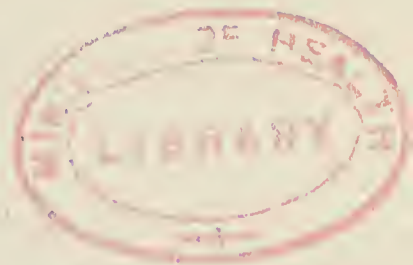


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THEDWASTRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WEST SUFFOLK.



R E P O R T  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the Year  
1940.

ROBT. H. CLAYTON., M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Thedwastre,  
in the County of West Suffolk, for the year  
ending December 31st, 1940.

Public Health Offices,

Westgate House,

13, Westgate Street,

Bury St. Edmunds.

January, 1942.

To:-

The Chairman & Members of the Rural  
District Council of Thedwastre.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable  
consideration my third Report as Medical Officer of Health  
being for the year ended December 31st, 1940.

Owing to the War the Report has been limited on the  
instructions of the Minister of Health.

I am, Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT. H. CLAYTON,  
M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.,

also Medical Officer of Health  
Newmarket Urban, Mildenhall,  
Cosford and Thingoe Rural  
Districts and  
Assistant County Medical Officer  
of Health - West Suffolk.

The Public Health Officers are unchanged - the Medical Officer  
Health - the Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is also the  
Building Surveyor, Housing Manager and Petroleum &  
Explosives Officer is Oswald J. Wyatt, M.S.I.A., A.R.San. I.,  
Meat Cert. R.S.I. - the Sanitary Inspector - W. Elwyn Jones,  
Cert. S.I.B., Meat Cert. R.S.I.

# SECTION A.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

### 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area . . . . . 34,126 acres.

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1938</u>
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid-year	8,851	(a) 7,724 (b) 8,098	7,691
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book	2,551	2,409	2,447
Rateable value	£25,141	£24,751	£23,783
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£103	£103	£99

(IM)&(a) for the calculation of Birth Rates  
(BR)&(b) for the calculation of Death Rates  
or the incidence of notifiable diseases.

The District has received many evacuees - this is shown in the Registrar General's estimate of the resident population for 1940, which is a 15% increase on the 1938 figure.

### 2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	<u>1940</u>			<u>1939</u>			<u>1938</u>		
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
<u>Live Births.</u>									
Legitimate	IM. 110	46	64	101	54	47	112	58	54
	BR. 105	44	61	98	52	46			
Illegitimate	IM. 4	1	3	6	4	2	2	-	2
	BR. 4	1	3	6	4	2	2	-	2
<u>Stillbirths.</u>									
Legitimate	IM. 7	1	6	4	2	2	6	-	6
	BR. -	-	-	4	2	2	6	-	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
<u>Birth Rate per 1000.</u>									
The district	12.3			14.1			14.8		
England & Wales	14.6			15.0			15.1		
<u>Stillbirths. Rate per</u>									
1000 total (live and									
still) births.	The district	57.9		45.9			50.0		



<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1938</u>
<u>Total.</u>			
Male	132	101	79
Female	65	36	39
	67	65	40

Death Rate per 1000  
Resident Population.

Thechwastre.	Crude.	14.9	12.5	10.3
	Corrected.	11.8	9.2	7.6
England and Wales.		14.3	12.1	12.4

As in 1938 and 1939 there were no deaths from No 29 Puerperal Sepsis or No 30 Other Maternal Causes.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1938</u>
<u>Total.</u>	3	7	3
Male	1	3	1
Female	2	4	2

All were legitimate children.

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1938</u>
All infants per 1000 live births	26.3	65.4	26.3
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	27.3	69.3	26.8
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil	Nil	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) were 17 14 13

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough or Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

3 deaths occurred in the first year of life - two in the first five days (Malformation and Prematurity) and one at five weeks (Broncho-Pneumonia).

3 other deaths occurred in the nonage (male 3 years accidental drowning, male 11 years, acute meningitis and a female 14 years, rheumatic fever) and five further deaths before age 40 years; (male 24 years, rheumatic fever, male 33 years, influenza, male 38 years, carcinoma, female 25 years, pulmonary tuberculosis and a female 37 years, heart disease).

The proportion of deaths occurring at 65 years or over (8:11) is noteworthy.

On the following page is a table giving the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures.

Only direct comparison between totals for "All Causes" in previous years is possible - not between totals for individual causes - as, for 1940, the deaths are classified under the headings given in the New Abridged List of Causes, as used in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, as set out on Page XXXIX of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Deaths - 1938.

Deaths at the sub-joined ages of  
"RESIDENTS" whether occurring in or  
beyond District.

Heading Number.		Under 1 Year		1 and under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 45		45 and under 65		65 and upwards		Registrar General's Figures	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
9.	Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	1
13.	Cancer of b: cav: & oesoph: (M) uterus (F)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	2
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
15.	Cancer of Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
16.	Cancer of all other Sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	7	1	9	1
17.	Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
18.	Intracran: vasc: lesions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	6	12	9	13
19.	Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	1	16	23	22	25
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	4	1
21.	Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2
22.	Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4
23.	Other Resp: Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2
28.	Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
31.	Premature Births	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
32.	Con. mal., birth injur:, infant diseases	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
33.	Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
35.	Other Violent Causes	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
36.	All Other Causes	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	7	3
TOTAL		1	2	1	-	1	1	1	-	6	2	10	11	45	51	65	67



## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### (ii)(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge, under the Directorship of Dr. A.W. Downie, has made financially possible an adequate bacteriological service which has allowed of suitable supervision of water supplies and adequate bacteriological facilities to check the spread of infectious diseases.

#### (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Air Raid Precautions Scheme Ambulances and Sitting Case Cars have often been used for the removal of evacuees to institutions or treatment centres.

#### (c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

#### (d) CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES.

#### (e) HOSPITALS.

) No change.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. (i) WATER.

The influx of population into this Reception Area required closer supervision of water supplies which was made possible by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

60% of the 38 water samples taken revealed unsatisfactory sources of supply. Although warning notices have been posted, this does not meet the position which will always be a source of worry until constantly supervised piped supplies are available.

#### (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

As in previous years house drains discharge into cesspools, neighbouring ditches or streams and in three villages to sewers - no extensions were carried out.

#### 2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Half a mile of the watercourse at Walsham-le-Willows and three quarters of a mile of that at Woolpit, both of which received house drainage, were again cleansed.

#### 3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation of the District is chiefly of the pail type, privy vaults are almost entirely confined to cottages possessing very small gardens and farmhouses.

#### (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

No public cleansing schemes have been operated in Thedwastre, but the Salvage Drives which have been very successfully undertaken by the W.V.S. under the Leadership of Mrs. Holt-Wilson, have dealt with waste-paper, bottles, jam jars and metals, thus greatly reducing the amount of household refuse with which the householder has to deal.



(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Mr. Wyatt has supplied the following tabular statement on the work of Mr. Jones and himself.

INSPECTIONS.

Dwellinghouses.

Total number of dwellinghouse inspections made under the various Acts	91
Total number of re-inspections thereof	9
Number of houses inspected after infectious diseases	83

Drains.

New drain tests and inspections	9
Ditches and Watercourses	48

Various.

Bacon Factory	338
Slaughterhouses	14
Visits in connection with Butchers' Premises	31
Food Shops	58
Bakehouses	12
Factories	3
Cowsheds	87
Dairies	91
Shops & Offices	85
School inspections	46
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	1
Water Samples	46
Interviews	38

Rent Collection	3701
Clerk of Works & Building Surveyor	38
Petroleum Act	20
Miscellaneous	1710

6559

Includes inter-alia deterrents against enemy aircraft, damage by enemy action and evacuation.

Number of informal notices given in 1940	43
" " " " complied with	43
" " Statutory Notices served in 1940	1
" " " " complied with	1

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

85 visits to Shops and Offices were made during which the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934 were explained.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

2 sites were used, no licences issued and the estimated maximum number of campers was 20.

- (vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT. )  
(vii) SWIMMING BATHS & POOLS. ) Nil.  
(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. )



#### 4. SCHOOLS.

46 visits were made to inspect the washing and sanitary arrangements in the elementary schools in the District and the buildings adapted as schools for evacuee children.

### S E C T I O N D.

#### HOUSING.

1. (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 91  
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 100

- (2) Dwellinghouses recorded under the Housing consolidated Regulations, 1925. Nil

Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 28

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 27

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 1  
(2) Dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice (a) By Owners 1

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts. Nil

- (c) No proceedings under Section 11, 13 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 or under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 4  
(ii) No. of families dwelling therein 4  
(iii) No. of persons dwelling therein 40  
(b) New cases of overcrowding reported in 1940 Nil  
(c) (i) Cases of overcrowding relieved 5  
(ii) No. of persons concerned in such cases 24

Total number of houses owned by the Council at 31.12.40 - 331

### S E C T I O N E.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 105 cowkeepers, retail purveyors and wholesale producers in the District. 178 inspections for supervision of both Cowsheds & Dairies were made. 1 sample of milk was taken during the year for bacteriological and tuberculosis examination.

(b) MEAT & OTHER FOODS.

Centralised slaughtering has meant that only one licensed slaughterhouse is in regular use in the District - other slaughterhouses are used only for emergency slaughtering or for pigs slaughtered for pig breeders personal consumption.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	562	49	2058	86,483
Number inspected	562	49	2058	64,863
(All diseases except Tuberculosis)				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	7	63
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	68	-	2	2,827
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	12.1%	2%	4%	3.3%
(Tuberculosis only)				
Whole carcasses condemned	5	2	-	139
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	77	-	-	6,140
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	12.3%	4%	-	14.1%

Estimated weight of Condemned Meat.

Beef 5,217lbs, Mutton 185lbs, Veal 356lbs.

		<u>Pig Condemnations.</u>	<u>Approx. Weight.</u>
Tuberculosis	139	6140 Heads	85,960 lbs
Meribund	11	1856 Plucks	12,992 lbs
Plourisy & peritonitis	3	2023 Intestines	
Fevered	33	2827 Kidneys	707 lbs
Jaundiced	3	691 Leaf Fats	1,727 lbs
Pyæmia	1		
Septicaemia	2		
Arthritis	6		
Swine Erysipelas	1		
	<u>200</u>	Carcass weight	20,730 lbs.

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.

(d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD. ) No change.



(e) NUTRITION.

Almost total acceptance throughout the District has been obtained of the National Milk Scheme introduced by Lord Woolton, Minister of Food, whereby 1 pint of milk per head per day is available to expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age not attending school, at 2d per pint, without regard to income. To the same classes of people the same quantity is supplied free where the household income complies with certain requirements. Dried milk can be supplied in some cases in lieu of fresh milk.

(f) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan) .. No change.

(g) WATER CRESS .. No change.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

The influx of evacuees increased the number of Infectious Diseases occurring among the children and the local inhabitants of the District. This was especially noticeable with regard to Scarlet Fever.

The District however, was fortunate in having at its disposal (at a cost which they could afford) the services of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge, under the Directorship of Dr. A.W. Downie.

Scarlet Fever Outbreaks.

119 children and staff at Norton had throat and nose swabs taken on October 24th, and submitted to Dr. Downie. 11 Group "A", type 8, Haemolytic Streptococcal carriers were identified by this bacteriological examination and this allowed their exclusion from school and terminated the epidemic in the village.

Similar outbreaks in November at Felsham (Group "A" type 2) and Elmswell (Group "A" type 2) were speedily checked by the employment of the same facilities.

# ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1940.

Disease	Total cases notified.	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	45-	65-	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	71	-	-	2	5	3	33	16	2	6	1	3	-	20	-
Whooping Cough	17	-	1	1	2	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	34	1	1	1	3	3	14	5	3	2	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4
Total	125	1	2	4	10	13	53	21	5	10	2	3	1	20	4

## TUBERCULOSIS.

There was only one new case of Tuberculosis notified during 1940 - a respiratory case (female in age group 35 - 45).

Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1940 totalled two - both respiratory cases - 1 male in age group 35 - 45 and 1 female in age group 25 - 35.

28 cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1940 (as under):-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
31. 12. 40	8	7	6	7	14	14
31. 12. 39	7	7	7	8	14	15
31. 12. 38	8	7	8	8	16	15